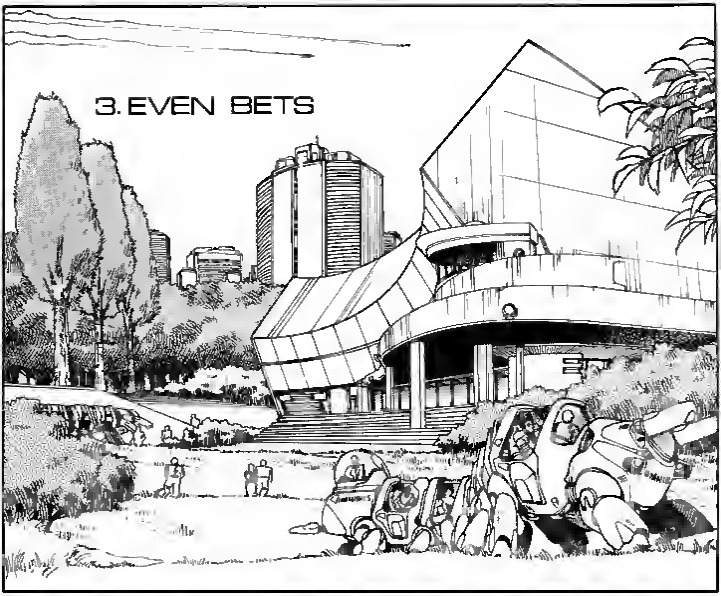
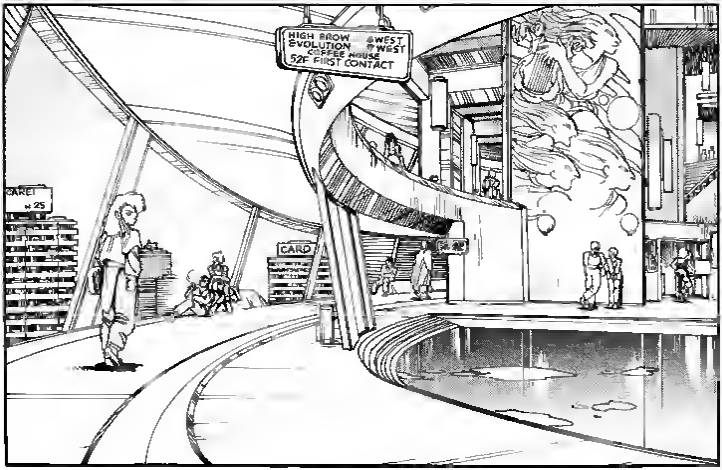
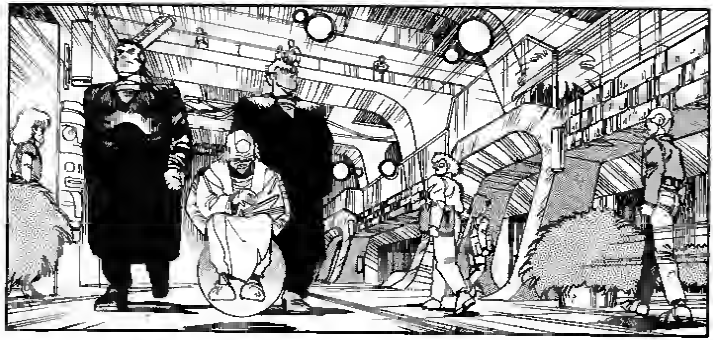
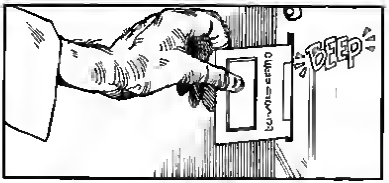
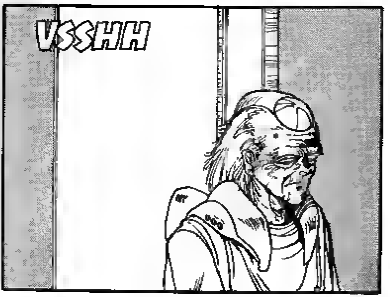

3. EVEN BETS


HIGH BROW
EVOLUTION
CINEMA
52F FIRST CONTACT
WEST
WEST
HOUSE
CARD
CARD

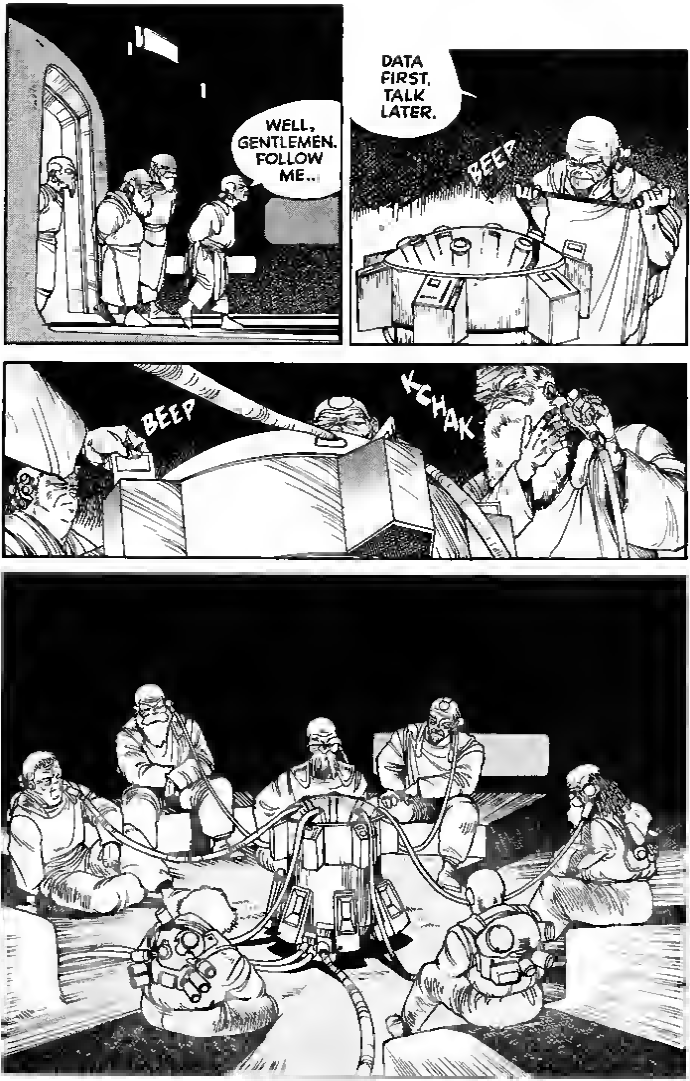


GOOD LUCK, SIR.


BEEP


VSSHH

VVVV
BEEP
VSSHH
WE'RE ALL HERE, THEN.


WELL, GENTLEMEN. FOLLOW ME..
DATA FIRST. TALK LATER.
BEEP
BEEP
KCHAK

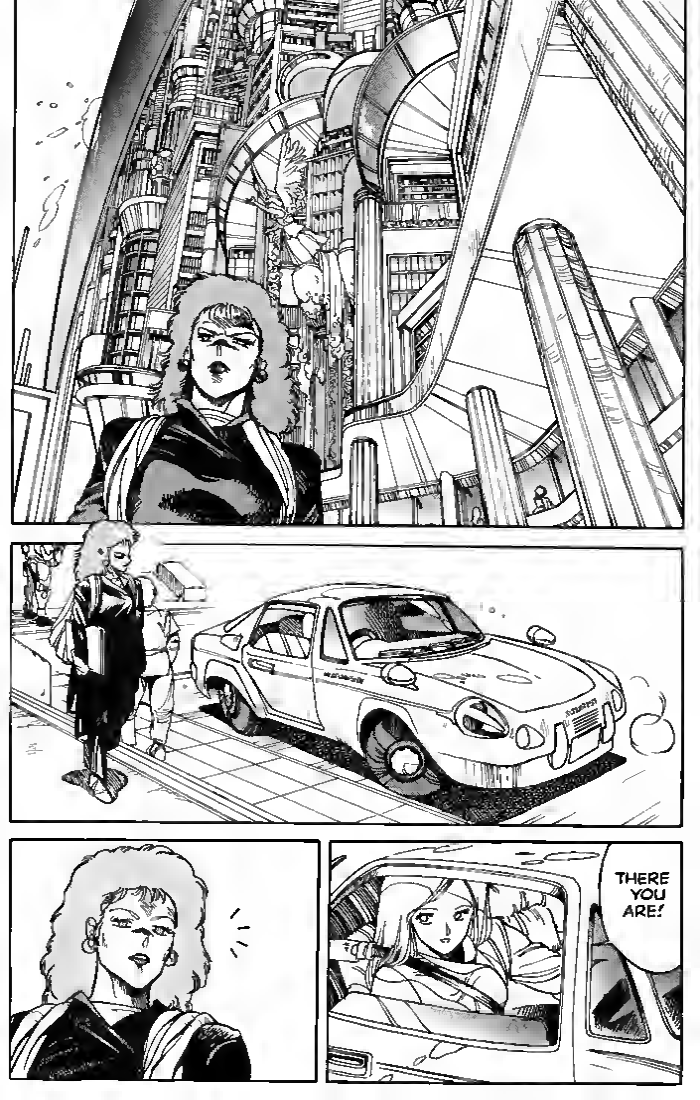
DIRECTOR!
BAM
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET SO EMOTIONAL, ATHENA...
IT'S *YOU* WHO NEEDS TO GET SERIOUS, DIRECTOR!
DO I, NOW?
YOUR REPORT ON THE COUNCIL CONTAINED NOTHING SUSPICIOUS.
A STUDY ON "THE IMPACT OF THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT ON *HOMO SAPIENS*"...? SOUNDS CONSTRUCTIVE. I WELCOME IT.
THEN AT *LEAST* ACKNOWLEDGE THE DANGER OF SELLING LANDMATES ON THE OPEN MARKET!
WE'RE STILL NOT SECURE HERE. IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE BUILD UP OUR DEFENSES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

YOU ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MOBILE WEAPONS COULD DO IN A CITY LIKE THIS!
YOU SEEM AWFULLY CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE "GUINEA PIGS" HITOMI'S BRINGING IN
WELL, I'M MORE CONCERNED THAT YOU'RE NOT PUTTING GREATER EFFORT INTO RECONSTRUCTION.
I WOULD-- IF YOU'D SET UP A PROPER MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL!
ATHENA!
WITH YOU IN SUCH A STATE, I'M FRANKLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT AEGIS. YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF WORK TO DO.
CONSULTING, DEPLOYMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT! INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MEDIATIONS! ESTABLISHING BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, CLEANING UP WAR DAMAGE--IT GOES ON AND ON.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, ATHENA!
BAM

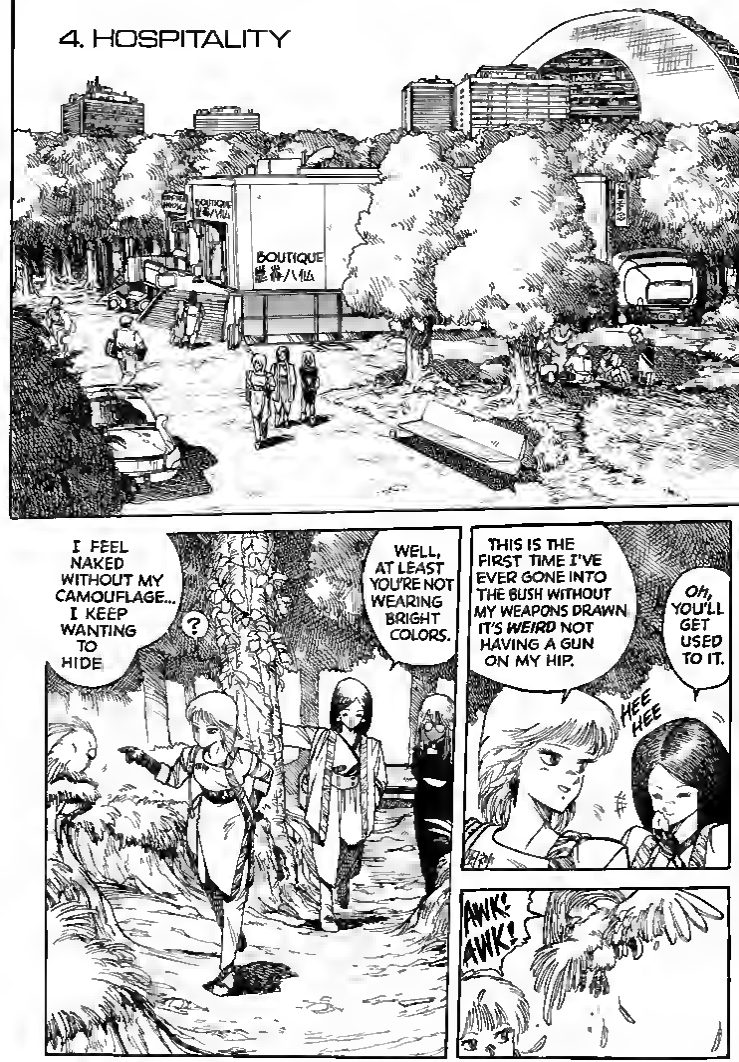
VERY FAST.
YES, A MUCH QUICKER REACTION THAN OUR PREDIC-TIONS.
IT'S NOT JUST IN OLYMPUS THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE IS EXTREMELY UNSTABLE. THEY'RE SIMPLY NOT COPING.
THE DATA COMES FROM EMBASSY ATTACHES.
HIGHLY RELIABLE, I'M SORRY TO SAY.
DID WE PUSH THE PLAN FORWARD TOO FAST...?
WE WERE ON THE BRINK OF FINAL WAR WE HAD NO CHOICE. EVEN NOW..
EVEN NOW?

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE REST OF THE WORLD IS MODELLED ON OLYMPUS.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, WE HAVE TO ELIMINATE THE BARRIERS BETWEEN US AND THE HOMO SAPIENS.
Ah, EXCUSE ME.
TWO MORE AGENTS AND WE'LL BE READY.
I'VE TOLD HITOMI TO HURRY, BUT SHE HAS TO BE CAREFUL. ATHENA ..
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. WE NEED A CITY-WIDE MOVEMENT
I WANT DATA SOLID ENOUGH TO CONVINCE NINETY PERCENT OF THE COUNCIL
OUR ORIGINAL GOAL WAS TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO. EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE WAS TO THAT END.
OF COURSE! THAT HASN'T CHANGED
THERE'S NO RECORD OF HOMO SAPIENS WORRYING ABOUT THE MONKEYS
THAT WAS A NATURAL EVOLUTION FRANKLY, WE'RE NOTHING BUT TOOLS. TOOLS FOR THE HUMANS

IF THE HUMAN INTELLECT IS A PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION, THEN *WE* SHOULD QUALIFY AS WELL.
I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD ABANDON EVERYTHING HUMAN, OR EVEN THAT WE'RE THE BEST OPTION.
BUT IN THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT, THE HUMAN RACE WILL LOSE IT'S BIOLOGICAL VITALITY IN THREE GENERATIONS. IT'S *INEVITABLE*.
HOPEFULLY, NEW TENSION WILL GENERATE BETTER CONDITIONS.
IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT... A HARSHER ENVIRONMENT ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER. SOCIETY DETERIORATES, MORALS COLLAPSE...
WE CAN'T JUST *ABANDON* THE REFUGEES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE POOR... THAT'S SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.
AND THE OLD COLD WAR POWER GAMES ...?
WE SHOULD'VE ALREADY REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THAT... THERE'S NO MORE TIME.
WELL, LET'S DISCUSS HOW TO SCREEN THE NEXT ROUND OF DATA.
THE CONFERENCE ROOM, GENTLEMEN.


THERE YOU ARE!

THE COUNCIL?
IS THAT THE PROBLEM?
WHATEVER THEY'RE UP TO, WE'RE ALREADY IN THE DANGER ZONE
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE TOO LATE, OR TOO EARLY. HOW *BIG* THIS ALL IS, HOW *DANGEROUS*...
DAMN IT... I HATE IT WHEN A PERFECTIONIST GETS THE JITTERS.
IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I SUPPOSE.
HE'S ONE OF THE ONLY ONES WHO ACTUALLY SAW COMBAT.
HE'S *DIFFERENT* FROM THE OTHER BUREAU-CRATS.

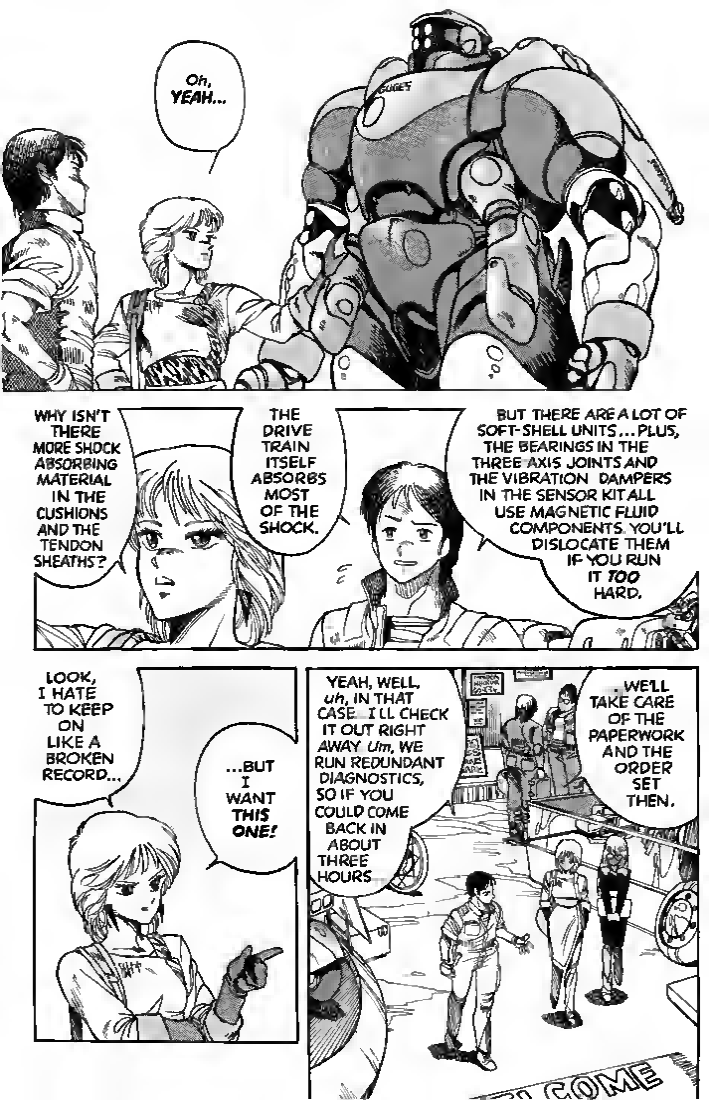

4. HOSPITALITY
BOUTIQUE
I FEEL NAKED WITHOUT MY CAMOUFLAGE... I KEEP WANTING TO HIDE
?
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT WEARING BRIGHT COLORS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER GONE INTO THE BUSH WITHOUT MY WEAPONS DRAWN IT'S WEIRD NOT HAVING A GUN ON MY HIP.
HEE HEE
OH, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
AWK! AWK!

IT'S LIKE ALL THOSE RUINS WERE A DREAM...
I CAN'T HANDLE NOT HAVING ENEMIES AROUND.
TWO MONTHS AGO, CHIFFON HERE WAS SAYING EXACTLY THE SAME THING.
GAKUSHA STATION
ANY-WAY...
...I HAVE TO GO TO WORK. I SHOULD BE BACK AROUND TEN O'CLOCK.
Oh, THAT'S RIGHT-- FLEXTIME.
'BYE, THEN. SEE Y TONIGHT.
SHALL WE GO?

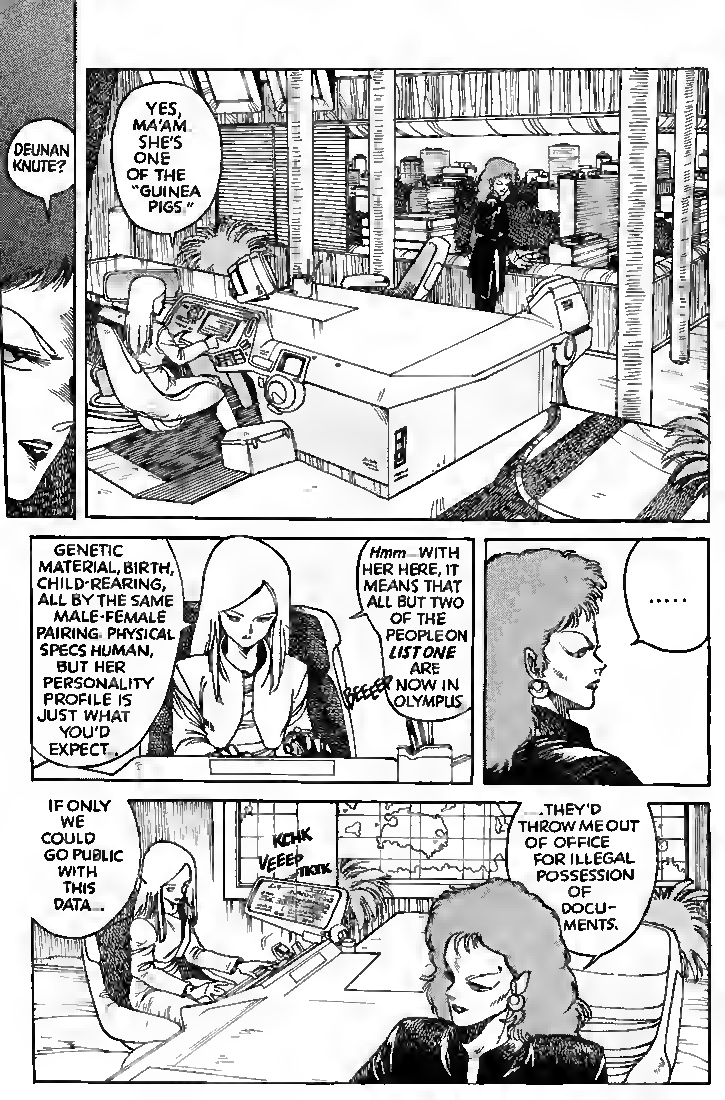
ALFIN STATION
YOSHI! YOU GOT A CUSTOMER HERE, SAYS SHE WANTS TO BUY A GUGES.*
WHAT?!
SAFETY FIRST
VRRM VRRM
AKECHI MOTORS
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
SAFETY FIRST
Oh, DAMN.. I NEVER SHOULD'VE GIVEN HER THAT CATALOGUE..
LOOKIT, ROMEO .. I'M GLAD YOU'RE SO HOT WITH THE CHICKS, BUT THEY GOTTA WEAR HELMETS IN THE SHOP, OKAY?

*GUGES=GHEEYOU-GEHZ

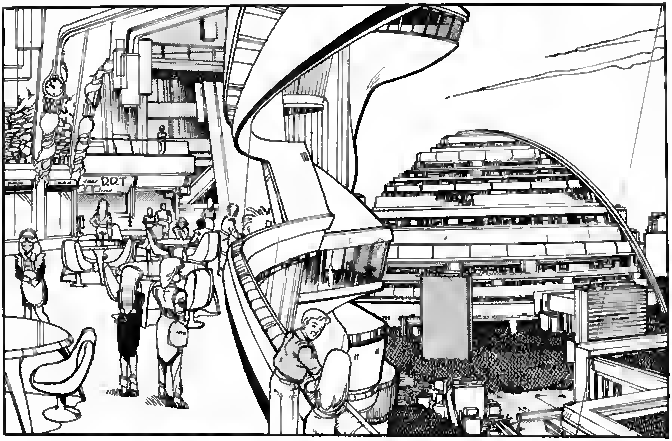
...A GUGES? YOU'RE SURE?
I REALLY GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT ...
SKREE
MY PARTNER SAYS MODELS WITH HEAVY LOADING ON THE OUTER JOINTS LOOK GOOD, BUT ARE HARD TO BRING AROUND IN A PINCH. HE SAYS THAT COULD BE BAD NEWS...
...AND THE GUGES IS THE ONLY MODEL WITH A DRIVE TRAIN THAT COMES WITH A TORQUE DAMPER MECHANISM AND POWER BRAKING
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE A MACHINE FOR WHAT YOU NEED IT TO DO, NOT FOR THE SPECS..
KANG CHANG KANG
VEEEN
THE GUGES HAS THE BEST SENSORING AND TORQUE BALANCE ...
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A MONSTER
EVEN THE MECHS AT SWAT HAVE TROUBLE KEEPING A GUGES RUNNING, AND THEY'RE ONLY HALF HUMAN THEMSELVES.
WELL, I DON'T LIKE WASTING TIME WITH FEEDBACK.
PSSH
KAMM
IT'S GOT A SOLID BUILD. NONE OF THE OTHERS LOOK ANY GOOD FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.
TVSSSH
COME ON... I CAN'T REALLY RECOMMEND HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TO A YOUNG LADY... Heh...
"THE ADVANTAGES OF A HUMANOID MODEL LIE IN COMBAT AND MANEUVERABILITY" THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS IN YOUR CATALOGUE.

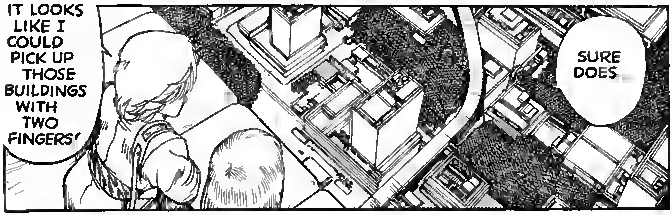

Oh, YEAH...
WHY ISN'T THERE MORE SHOCK ABSORBING MATERIAL IN THE CUSHIONS AND THE TENDON SHEATHS?
THE DRIVE TRAIN ITSELF ABSORBS MOST OF THE SHOCK.
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF SOFT-SHELL UNITS... PLUS, THE BEARINGS IN THE THREE AXIS JOINTS AND THE VIBRATION DAMPERS IN THE SENSOR KIT ALL USE MAGNETIC FLUID COMPONENTS. YOU'LL DISLOCATE THEM IF YOU RUN IT TOO HARD.
LOOK, I HATE TO KEEP ON LIKE A BROKEN RECORD...
...BUT I WANT THIS ONE!
YEAH, WELL, uh, IN THAT CASE... I'LL CHECK IT OUT RIGHT AWAY. Um, WE RUN REDUNDANT DIAGNOSTICS, SO IF YOU COULD COME BACK IN ABOUT THREE HOURS
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PAPERWORK AND THE ORDER SET THEN.

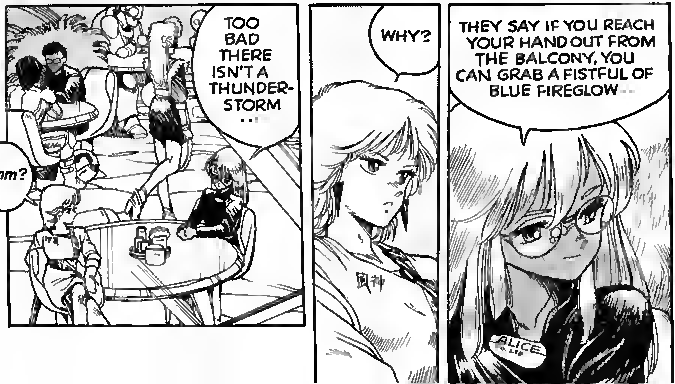
OKAY... DO YOUR BEST.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
WELL, "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT." BUT DO YOU THINK SHE CAN KEEP IT MAINTAINED...?
AKECHI MOTORS
ANYWAY, BACK TO WORK...

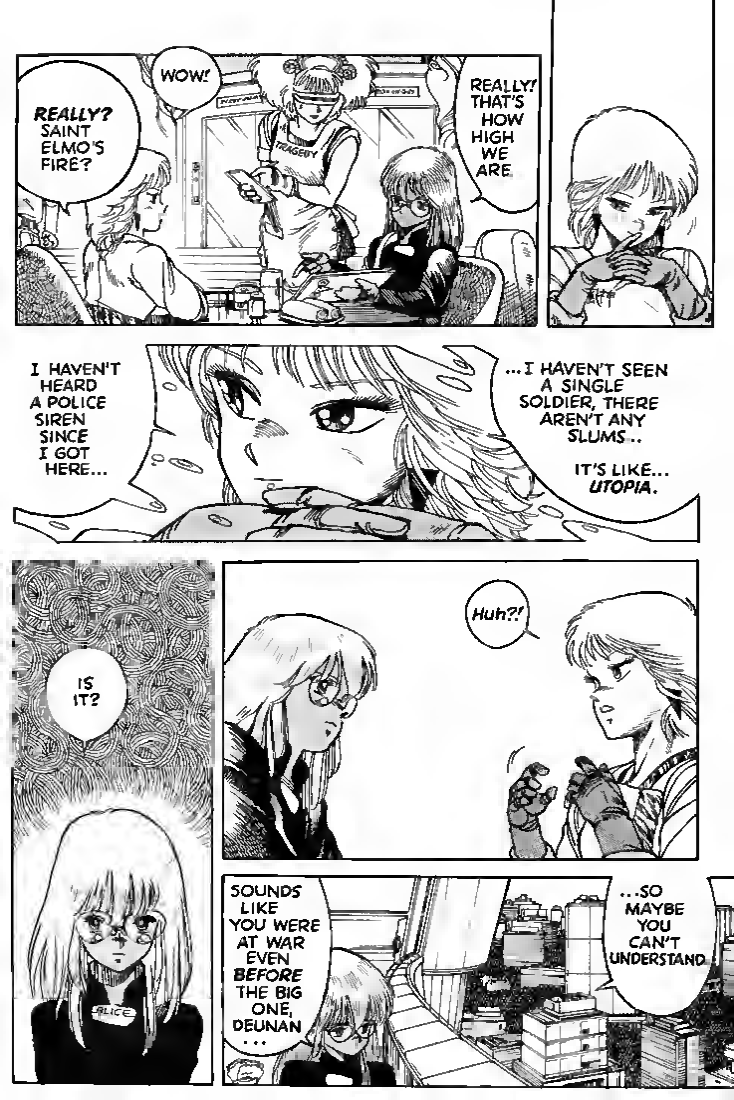

DEUNAN KNUTE?
YES, MA'AM. SHE'S ONE OF THE "GUINEA PIGS."
GENETIC MATERIAL, BIRTH, CHILD-REARING, ALL BY THE SAME MALE-FEMALE PAIRING. PHYSICAL SPECS HUMAN, BUT HER PERSONALITY PROFILE IS JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.
Hmm—WITH HER HERE, IT MEANS THAT ALL BUT TWO OF THE PEOPLE ON *LIST ONE* ARE NOW IN OLYMPUS.
SKEEP
.....
IF ONLY WE COULD GO PUBLIC WITH THIS DATA...
KCHK
VEEEP
TKTK
..THEY'D THROW ME OUT OF OFFICE FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF DOCUMENTS.

FORCE YOUR RESIGNATION, huh?
GIVE ME ALESA.
!
TIME FOR FIRST STRIKE ...
START WITH THAT CROWD AT HITOMI'S. DRUG THEIR FOOD AND SEE WHAT THEY DO.
BUT MA'AM... ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS? THERE'S NO TELLING HOW THEY MIGHT REACT!
VERY WELL, MA'AM.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSI-BILITY. YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN, NIKE...
...REAL SAFETY LIES IN CONTROLLING DANGER.

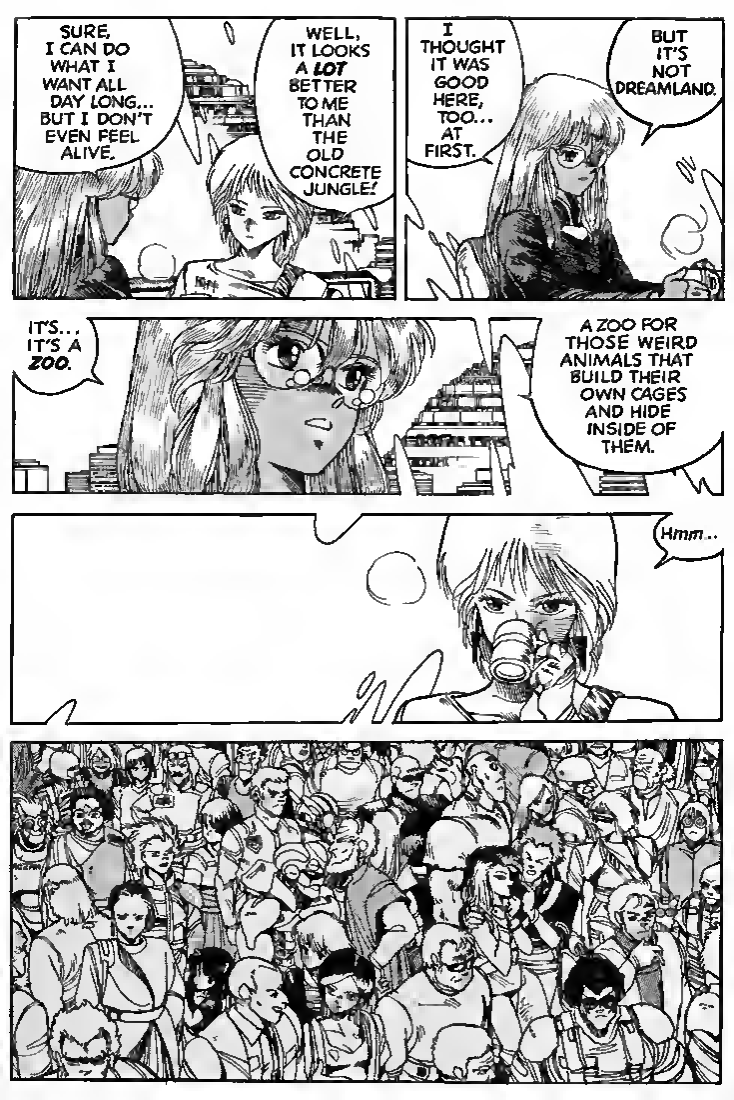


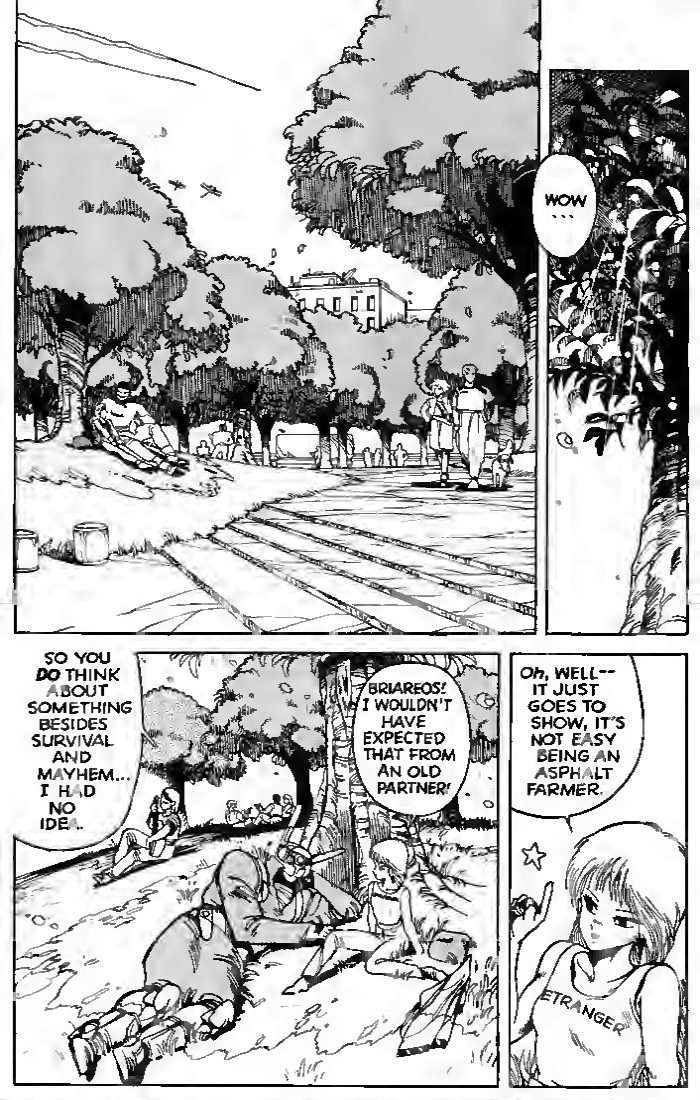

IT LOOKS LIKE I COULD PICK UP THOSE BUILDINGS WITH TWO FINGERS!
SURE DOES

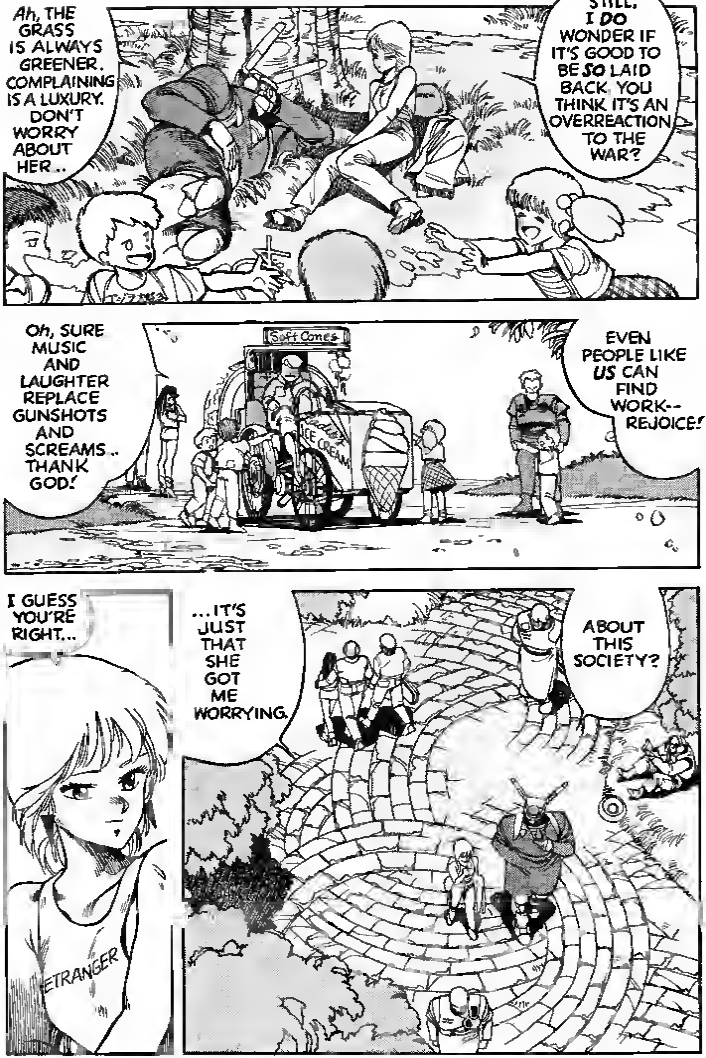

TOO BAD THERE ISN'T A THUNDER-STORM...
Hmm?
WHY?
THEY SAY IF YOU REACH YOUR HAND OUT FROM THE BALCONY, YOU CAN GRAB A FISTFUL OF BLUE FIREGLOW...
ALICE


WOW!
REALLY? SAINT ELMO'S FIRE?
REALLY! THAT'S HOW HIGH WE ARE.
I HAVEN'T HEARD A POLICE SIREN SINCE I GOT HERE...
...I HAVEN'T SEEN A SINGLE SOLDIER, THERE AREN'T ANY SLUMS..
IT'S LIKE... UTOPIA.
IS IT?
Huh?!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE AT WAR EVEN BEFORE THE BIG ONE, DEUNAN...
...SO MAYBE YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND

BUT ALL THIS PEACE AND QUIET.. IT'S LIKE A WASTELAND.
.....
SO WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR?
WHA?!
NO, NO-- I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!
YEAH, FOR SURE, YOU CAN ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE WITH ZERO ABILITY, ZERO RULES... YOU CAN KICK BACK ALL DAY AND DO ALL RIGHT ANYWAY.
BUT I STILL LIKED IT BETTER ON OAHU. HERE, EVEN THE SUN AND THE PLANTS LOOK BLAH
TRAGEDY


SURE, I CAN DO WHAT I WANT ALL DAY LONG... BUT I DON'T EVEN FEEL ALIVE.
WELL, IT LOOKS A LOT BETTER TO ME THAN THE OLD CONCRETE JUNGLE!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD HERE, TOO... AT FIRST.
BUT IT'S NOT DREAMLAND.
IT'S... IT'S A ZOO.
A ZOO FOR THOSE WEIRD ANIMALS THAT BUILD THEIR OWN CAGES AND HIDE INSIDE OF THEM.
Hmm..


WOW
. . .
SO YOU DO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING BESIDES SURVIVAL AND MAYHEM... I HAD NO IDEA.
BRIAREOS! I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THAT FROM AN OLD PARTNER!
Oh, WELL-- IT JUST GOES TO SHOW, IT'S NOT EASY BEING AN ASPHALT FARMER.
ETRANGER

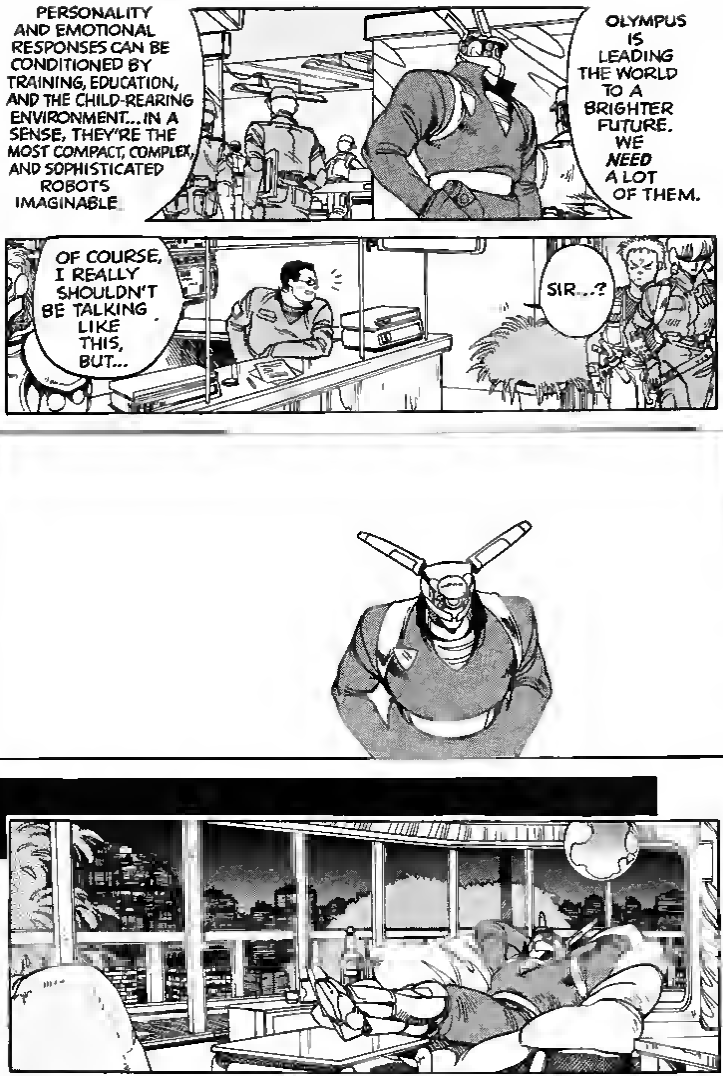

Ah, THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER. COMPLAINING IS A LUXURY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER..
STILL, I DO WONDER IF IT'S GOOD TO BE SO LAID BACK. YOU THINK IT'S AN OVERREACTION TO THE WAR?
Oh, SURE MUSIC AND LAUGHTER REPLACE GUNSHOTS AND SCREAMS.. THANK GOD!
Soft Cones
EVEN PEOPLE LIKE US CAN FIND WORK-- REJOICE!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
...IT'S JUST THAT SHE GOT ME WORRYING.
ABOUT THIS SOCIETY?
ETRANGER

WELL, IF EVERYONE'S BEHAVING THEMSELVES FOR THE SAME REASONS SHE IS, THEN MAYBE SOMETHING IS WRONG.
SAY... WASN'T SHE SUPPOSED TO COME WITH YOU?
EURP
SHE HAD TO MEET SOME-- HEY! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
SKRTCH SKRTCH
Oh, NUTHIN' ...
WELL, I'M OFF TO AKECHI MOTORS ...
I'LL GO TURN IN OUR APPLICATIONS TO THE POLICE. WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED? OFFICE WORK, RIGHT?
YEAH, SURE! IDIOT!
ADIEU!

POLICE
Oh, GOOD HEAVENS, NO! OF COURSE YOU TWO DON'T NEED EXTRA TRAINING!!
IN FACT, IT'S AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON! THIS IS GREAT! I'LL GIVE IT TOP PRIORITY IN POSTINGS!
SKRTCH SKRTCH
YES, SIR! IT SHOULD ALL BE READY TOMORROW, YES INDEED... Eh?
?!
WELL, LET US KNOW WHEN IT'S DECIDED, ALL RIGHT?
WE PICK UP OUR GUNS AND OTHER GEAR AT OUR POSTS?

Uh... ANYWAY, WEAPONS ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN HERE. THE CRIME RATE'S AS LOW AS IN JAPAN BEFORE THE WAR.
COMPARED TO VANCOUVER, NEW YORK, OR L.A., YOU'LL THINK YOU'RE ON VACATION.
Uh... SIR?
HEY!
VERUND! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!
?
IT'S ME! ME! YOUR OLD POINT MAN, BRIAREOS!
Oh, COME OFF IT! YOU'RE NOT SO SENILE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ME!
I MAKE A POINT OF REMEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES, BUT... SORRY-- HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

CUT THE CRAP! IS THIS SOME ROUTINE YOU RUN WITH THE ROOKIES?
LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T WORK HERE. IF YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH ME, YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT ON THE WAY TO MY CAR.
...?!
HEY! YOU KNOW THAT GUY ?!
BAM!
Y-YES, SIR!
H-HE'S A PUBLIC SERVANT, REPORTING STRAIGHT TO THE DIRECTOR SINCE BEFORE THE WAR. ... NAME OF ARUGESS. Uhh...
...IT COULD BE HE'S A CLONE OF YOUR FRIEND, SIR.
A CLONE?
YES, SIR. A HUMAN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED FROM A GENETIC PATTERN TAKEN FROM A SPECIFIC DONOR. WE CALL CLONES WITH GENETIC MATERIAL FROM MULTIPLE MOTHER-SOURCES HYBRIDS. WHEN THEY GO THROUGH SPECIAL PROCESSING, WE CALL THEM BIOROIDS.
IF YOU COUNT THE UNITS WITH MACROMOLECULAR PROCESSED COMPONENTS, A GOOD EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ARE CLONES.

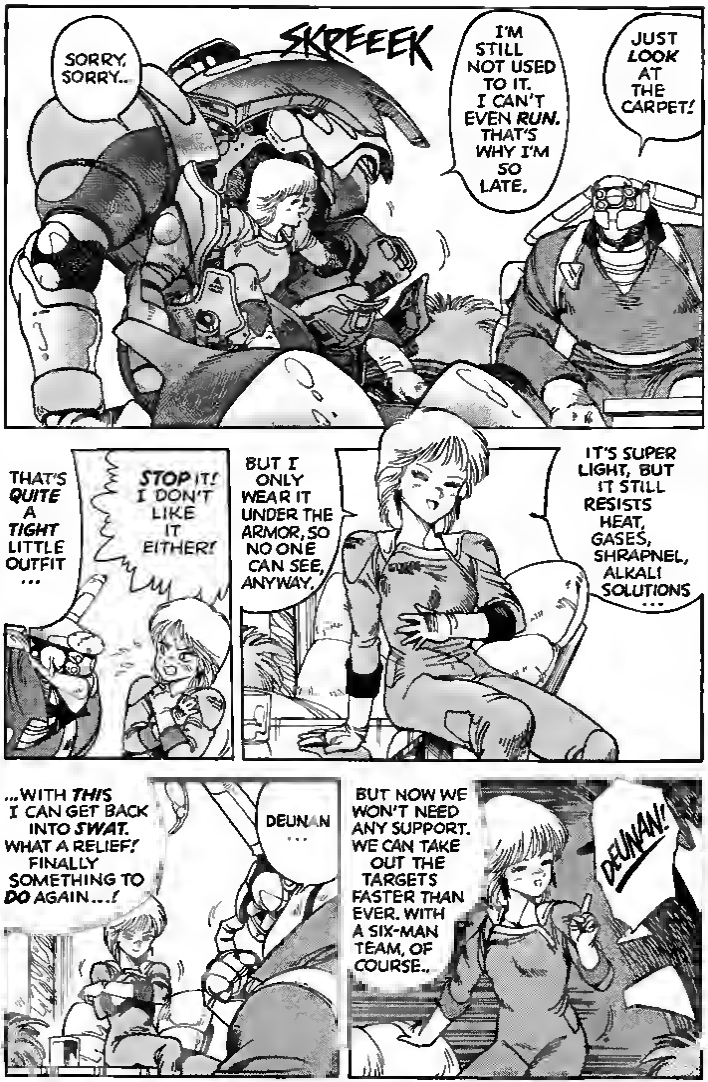

PERSONALITY AND EMOTIONAL RESPONSES CAN BE CONDITIONED BY TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND THE CHILD-REARING ENVIRONMENT... IN A SENSE, THEY'RE THE MOST COMPACT, COMPLEX, AND SOPHISTICATED ROBOTS IMAGINABLE.
OLYMPUS IS LEADING THE WORLD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE. WE *NEED* A LOT OF THEM.
OF COURSE, I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE TALKING LIKE THIS, BUT...
SIR...?

UTOPIA...?
EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPU-LATION ...
SHE SAID WE'RE ANIMALS THAT BUILD OUR OWN CAGES AND HIDE IN THEM...
BUT OBUNAN... EVEN PEOPLE ARE JUST TOOLS OF THE SPIRIT...
RRING
SORRY, HITOMI'S NOT IN, NOW...
THIS IS THE BCSC*
COULD YOU GIVE HER A MES-SAGE?

*BCSC=BIOCONTROL SERVICE CENTER.

IT'S TIME FOR HER PERIODIC LONGEVITY PROCESSING.
TAK
SHE'S ALREADY TWO DAYS LATE!
BY NOW, SHE SHOULD BE EXPERIENCING ANEMIA AND A SHARP DROP IN ENERGY LEVELS AS HER BODY TEMPERATURE FALLS. SHE'S PROBABLY SLEEPING LONGER, A SIGN OF HER BIO-LOGICAL SYSTEMS TRYING TO RECHARGE ON THEIR OWN.
IF SHE DOESN'T COME IN IMMEDIATELY, THERE'S NOTHING WE--
.....
I'LL PASS IT ON.
KLIK
HITOMI, TOO ...
WAIT A MINUTE ...!
A UTOPIAN CITY RUN BY PERFECT PEOPLE. GLOBAL MANAGEMENT. IT'S ALL TOO MUCH...
FWMP
...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THE WAR WAS ALL ABOUT...

I'M HOME ..!
?!
WHA--
GCHNK
FSHH
BOO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?! DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND, DID I? DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE, DID YOU? DID YOU? HA. HAHAHA!
GHAA... THREW OUT MY BACK...
OW OWW


SKREEEK
SORRY, SORRY..
I'M STILL NOT USED TO IT. I CAN'T EVEN RUN. THAT'S WHY I'M SO LATE.
JUST LOOK AT THE CARPET!
THAT'S QUITE A TIGHT LITTLE OUTFIT ...
STOP IT! I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER!
BUT I ONLY WEAR IT UNDER THE ARMOR, SO NO ONE CAN SEE, ANYWAY.
IT'S SUPER LIGHT, BUT IT STILL RESISTS HEAT, GASES, SHRAPNEL, ALKALI SOLUTIONS ...
...WITH THIS I CAN GET BACK INTO SWAT. WHAT A RELIEF! FINALLY SOMETHING TO DO AGAIN...!
DEUNAN ...
BUT NOW WE WON'T NEED ANY SUPPORT. WE CAN TAKE OUT THE TARGETS FASTER THAN EVER. WITH A SIX-MAN TEAM, OF COURSE..
DEUNAN!

LOOK, I'M SORRY. I WANTED TO SAY THIS BEFORE YOU GOT TOO CARRIED AWAY.
EVERYTHING'S ON HOLD.
RETURN THAT THING TOMORROW.
A-GAIN? BRIAREOS! WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS TEASING ME! . . HA, HA . .
I'M NOT JOKING.
WE'RE IN A C.A.*
BRIAREOS

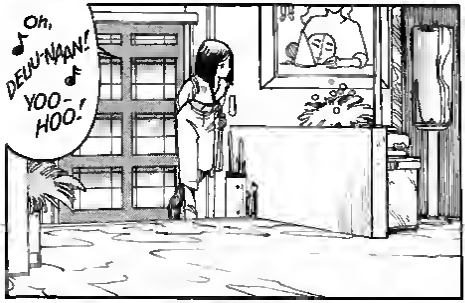
*C.A.=CRISIS AREA IN SWAT TERMINOLOGY, THE AREA WITHIN THE FIRING RANGE OF A SUSPECTED ENEMY--A DANGER ZONE.

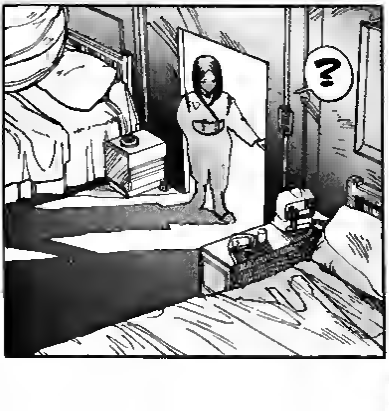
BRIAREOS ...WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT THING'S A WEAPON.
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
IT'S A TRAP.
BRIAREOS-H
WE'RE JUST PAWNS, DEUNAN... OR MAYBE GUINEA PIGS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'RE ONLY A FEW JOBS FOR PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
TO DO THOSE JOBS, YOU NEED TOOLS, TOOLS THAT ARE REALLY WEAPONS IN DISGUISE ...

YOU'RE JUST *PARANOID!* WHO? AND WHY? IT'S SO *QUIET* HERE...!
IF IT'S SO QUIET, THEN WHY DO THEY NEED MACHINES LIKE *THAT?* I THOUGHT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PEACETIME
EVEN *HITOMI'S* ONE!
BRIAREOS
I'LL *TELL* YOU WHY--EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE ARTIFICIAL.
GENETIC ENGINEERING'S OUT OF CONTROL.
!
I--I DON'T *GIVE* A SHIT!! WHO *CARES* WHAT SHE IS!
REAL? ARTIFICIAL? A PERSON'S A *PERSON!*
DEINAN!

I WON'T! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE GONE THROUGH ...!
PACK UP YOUR GEAR AND GO TO CHIFFON'S PLACE. WAIT THERE UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
DAMMIT, THAT'S NOT THE POINT! FOR THE TIME BEING, JUST DO AS I SAY.
GO.
BRIAREOS H
BAM

I'M HO-OME!
DEUNAN? YOU HERE?


Oh, DEUN-NAAN! YOO-HOO!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RRING
HELLO, THIS IS HITOMI.
CHIFFON?

...WHAT'S GOING ON...?
YEAH SHE WOULDN'T EAT ANYTHING-- JUST WENT STRAIGHT TO BED ...
WHAT?!
DEUNAN'S WITH YOU!
Eh? Oh NO, NO. OKAY, THANKS A LOT.
SHE HAS ALL HER STUFF WITH HER? WELL, COULD YOU PUT HER UP FOR THE NIGHT? I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...
?
Gee... DID THEY HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING ?
...WHY WOULD BOTH OF THEM RUN AWAY FROM HOME?
DEUNAN
STILL ...